



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Summary

Main Features

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication provides an up-to-date overview of the South Australian economy and contrasts the State's performance with that of the Australian economy. It provides details of movements in a range of economic and social indicators.

OVERVIEW

The data in this Overview are presented in trend terms, unless otherwise stated.

Included in this overview are Statistical Summary tables showing comparisons between South Australia and Australia for a variety of economic and social indicators. Also included is a State Summary, showing the performance of all States and Territories for selected indicators.

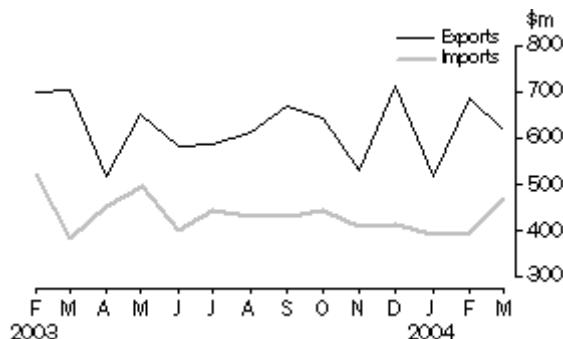
Further detail on all the indicators shown below can be obtained by accessing the latest Data Cube attached to this publication. This Data Cube is available within the **Related Links** section at the bottom of this page.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The value of South Australian merchandise exports (in original terms) for the month of March 2004 was \$617.8m. This was a decrease of 10.4% from the previous month and 12.5% less than the value of exports in March 2003 (\$705.7m).

The value of South Australian merchandise imports (in original terms) for March 2004 was \$473.0m. This was an increase of 19.6% from the \$395.3m recorded in February 2004 and 22.9% more than the March 2003 figure of \$385.0m.

Merchandise Exports and Imports

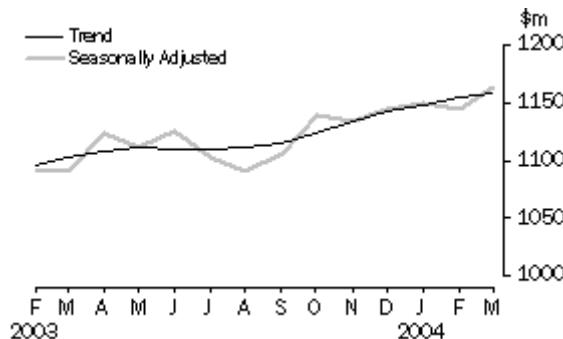


- See International Merchandise Imports, Australia (Timeseries, cat. no. 5439.0), International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (cat. no. 5368.0)

CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT

Retail Turnover continued its steady increase, with a positive movement of 0.4% from February 2004 (\$1,154.9m) to \$1,159.2m in March 2004. In the twelve month period from March 2003, total retail turnover increased by 5.1% from \$1,101.7m.

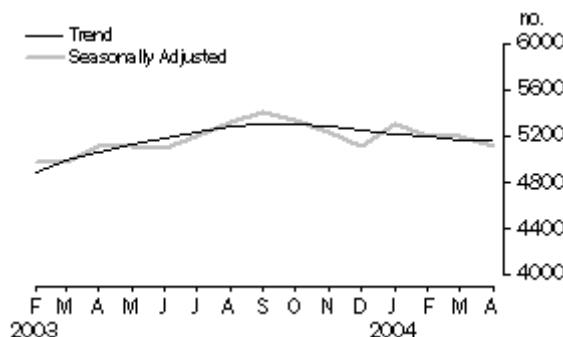
Retail Turnover



- See Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501)

April 2004 saw a total of 5,164 new motor vehicle sales - a decrease of 0.3% on the previous month's figure of 5,178 vehicles. However, the April figure is 1.9% higher than the new vehicles sales recorded in April 2003 (5,069).

New Motor Vehicle Sales

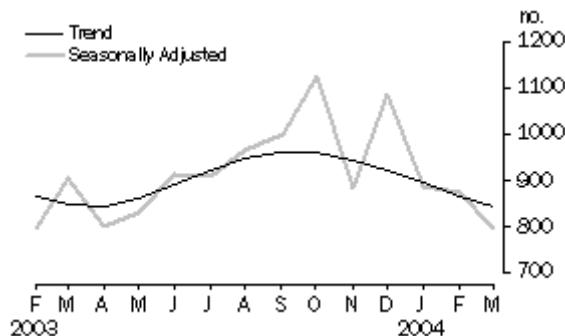


- See Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0.55.001)

HOUSING

In March 2004 the estimated total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia was 843, slightly lower than February 2004 (868) and also less than the estimated total approved in March 2003 (850).

Dwelling Units Approved

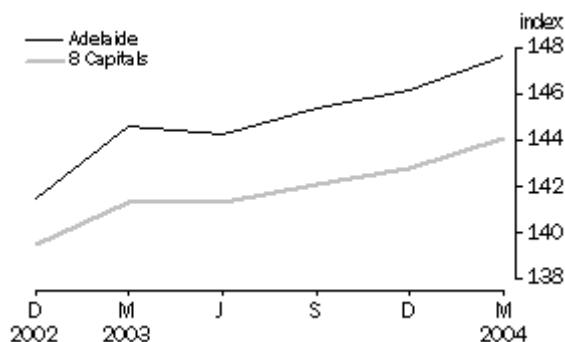


- See Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The all groups consumer price index in Adelaide for the March quarter 2004 was 147.7, an increase of 2.1% on the level recorded for the same period in 2003 and up 1.0% on the December quarter 2003.

Consumer Price Index

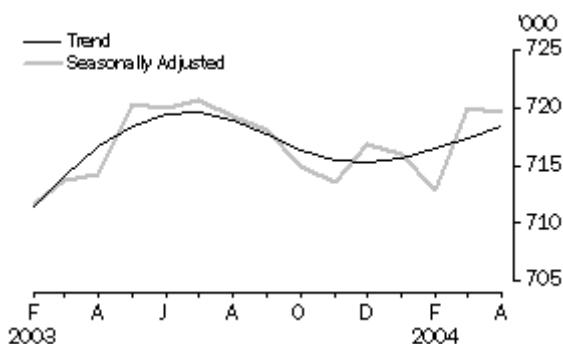


- See Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

LABOUR FORCE AND DEMOGRAPHY

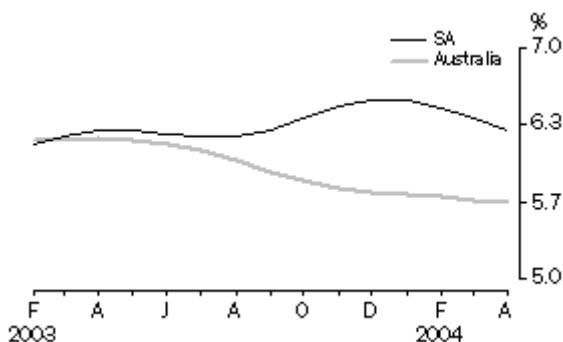
The estimate of employed persons in South Australia was 718,400 in April 2004, slightly lower than the peak in July 2003 (719,700) and similar to the level of twelve months ago (716,600). The total number of persons employed full-time in South Australia was 490,900 in April 2004, lower than the April 2003 estimate of 504,800.

Employed Persons



The estimate of the unemployment rate for South Australia was 6.3% in April 2004, the same as in April 2003. The estimate of the participation rate in South Australia was 61.5% in April 2004 compared to 61.9% in April 2003, lower than the most recent peak of 62.0% in June 2003.

Unemployment Rate - Trend

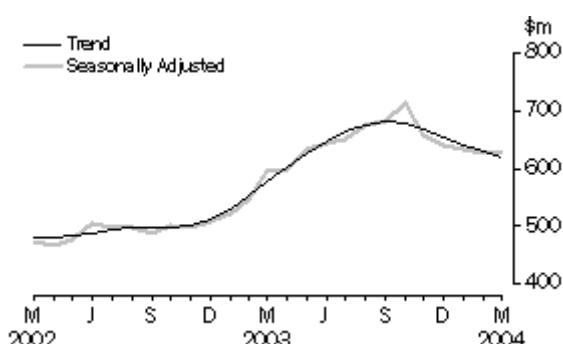


- See Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

FINANCIAL MARKETS

The value of secured housing finance commitments (excluding alterations and additions, and including refinancing) was \$620.9m in March 2004. This was a decrease of 1.4% from the previous month and an increase of 7.3% over the value of commitments in March 2003 (\$578.7m).

Secured Housing Finance Commitments (a)



(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

- See Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0)

STATISTICAL SUMMARY Part 1

Dwelling unit approvals										
Original (no.)	Mar 04	983	19.0	-5.5	15,126	10.1	5.8	6.5	7	
Trend (no.)	Mar 04	843	-2.9	-0.8	13,957	-1.8	-0.7	6.0	7	
Dwelling units commenced (no.)	Dec qtr 03	2,776	9.2	1.3	46,696	6.6	4.7	5.9	8	
Value of non-residential building approvals- trend (\$m)	Mar 04	45.3	-27.9	-43.7	1,177.6	-2.2	-11.1	3.8		
Value of total building activity										
Commenced (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	985.4	40.9	32.7	14,090.1	9.4	5.0	7.0	8	
Work done (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	750.3	11.7	23.4	13,844.8	8.0	13.4	5.4	8	
Work yet to be done (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	1,406.3	27.9	41.2	22,562.3	4.7	14.6	6.2	8	
Value of engineering construction work done (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	436.4	-1.1	-11.8	6,960.5	11.7	10.5	6.3	9	
Manufacturing production										
Red meat trend (tonnes)	Mar qtr 04	55,744	0.7	-7.6	759,470	2.4	-0.3	7.3	11	
Mineral exploration expenditure (other than for petroleum) (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	9.6	3.2	-4.0	199.5	11.0	3.5	4.8	12	

STATISTICAL SUMMARY Part 2

Indicator	Period	South Australia			Australia			SA as a Source of index	
		Number	% change from		Number	% change from			
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year		
Prices (a)									
CPI- All groups (index no.)	Mar qtr 04	147.7	1.0	2.1	144.1	0.9	2.0	.. 13	
Price index of materials used in house building (index no.)	Mar qtr 04	138.3	0.7	1.5	134.4	0.6	2.7	.. 14	
Price index of materials used in building other than houses (index no.)	Mar qtr 04	126.1	0.3	1.9	126.9	0.2	2.3	.. 14	
Price index of established houses (index no.)	Dec qtr 03	220.4	6.4	24.2	245.1	6.0	18.9	.. 15	
Price index of project homes (index no.)	Dec qtr 03	164.9	2.6	6.0	153.7	1.7	7.9	.. 15	
Labour force and demography									
Population (resident at end qtr) ('000)	Sep qtr 03	1,529.4	0.1	0.6	19,941.3	0.3	1.3	7.7 16	
Natural increase of the population ('000)	Sep qtr 03	1.3	-6.1	39.3	27.7	-12.7	12.1	4.8 16	
Labour Force									
Original ('000)	Apr 04	762.4	-1.0	-0.1	10,204.9	-0.2	1.4	7.5 17	
Trend ('000)	Apr 04	766.7	0.0	0.3	10,232.9	0.2	1.5	7.5 17	

Employed persons										
Original ('000)	Apr 04	715.8	-1.1	0.0	9,621.6	-0.1	2.0	7.4	17	
Trend ('000)	Apr 04	718.4	0.1	0.3	9,653.7	0.2	2.1	7.4	17	
Participation rate										
Original (b) (%)	Apr 04	61.2	-0.7	-0.6	63.5	-0.3	-0.2	..	17	
Trend (b) (%)	Apr 04	61.5	0.0	-0.4	63.7	0.0	-0.1	..	17	
Unemployment rate										
Original (b) (%)	Apr 04	6.1	0.1	-0.2	5.7	-0.2	-0.6	..	17	
Trend (b) (%)	Apr 04	6.3	-0.1	0.0	5.7	0.0	-0.5	..	17	
Job vacancies ('000)	Feb 04	5.5	37.6	-21.9	105.7	0.0	-5.0	5.2	18	
Industrial disputes ('000 working days lost)	Dec 03	0.3	-62.5	-40.0	37.7	-0.5	97.4	0.8	19	
Income										
Average weekly earnings (full-time; ordinary time)										
Original (\$)	Feb qtr 04	868.10	0.0	2.0	947.80	1.0	5.3	..	20	
Trend (\$)	Feb qtr 04	866.10	-0.1	2.7	948.00	1.0	4.9	..	20	
Wage cost index (total hourly rate excluding bonuses)										
(c) (index no.)	Mar qtr 04	123.9	0.7	4.0	123.7	0.8	3.6	..	21	
Financial markets										
Secured housing finance (d)										
Original (\$m)	Mar 04	713.0	21.9	15.5	11,055.3	22.5	16.9	6.4	22	
Trend (\$m)	Mar 04	620.9	-1.4	7.3	9,664.2	-2.5	4.7	6.4	22	
Finance commitments										
Personal (\$m)	Mar 04	451.5	19.8	7.6	7,115.2	21.8	17.7	6.3	23	
Commercial (\$m)	Mar 04	1,255.8	27.6	42.8	23,510.7	26.4	10.8	5.3	23	
Lease (\$m)	Mar 04	18.0	15.4	4.0	561.7	28.6	6.0	3.2	23	
Interest rates (b)										
Banks - new housing loans (%)	Apr 04	..	..	..	7.05	0.0	0.50	..	24	
Banks - business loans										
Small, medium businesses (e) (%)	Apr 04	..	..	..	8.85	0.0	0.50	..	24	
Large business (%)	Apr 04	..	..	..	8.85	0.0	0.50	..	24	

(a) Base year of each index 1989-90 = 100.

(b) Change is shown in terms of percentage points.

(c) Base year of index Sep 1997 = 100.

(d) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(e) Rate for business loans over \$50,000.

STATE SUMMARY

Indicator	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Source index
SELECTED INDICATORS										
CPI- All groups(a) (index no.)	Mar qtr	145.0	143.5	145.4	147.7	139.6	143.0	139.0	143.9	13
Participation rate trend (%)	Apr 04	62.8	63.6	64.8	61.5	65.9	59.3	71.4	72.2	17
Unemployment rate trend (%)	Apr 04	5.3	5.7	6.2	6.3	5.3	6.7	4.2	3.8	17

Average weekly earnings (full-time adults; ordinary time) trend (\$)	Feb qtr	990.00	955.00	886.70	866.10	947.80	835.40	934.80	1,070.40	20
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SELECTED INDICATORS PER HEAD OF POPULATION(b)

State final demand										
Chain volume measures trend (c)										
(\$'000)	Dec qtr	10.1	9.9	9.5	9.2	10.3	8.4	13.8	16.9	1
Retail turnover										
Current prices original (\$)	Mar 04	782.9	761.0	787.1	742.0	755.5	699.3	732.9	945.2	3
Current prices trend (\$)	Mar 04	805.6	772.9	826.6	757.9	776.3	702.0	791.9	971.7	3
New motor vehicle sales										
trend (no. per '000 population)	Apr 04	3.8	4.2	4.4	3.4	3.7	2.9	3.8	3.7	4
Private new capital expenditure										
Current prices trend (\$)	Dec qtr	525.1	612.1	595.5	648.0	1,220.1	330.2	2,567.8	452.6	5
Dwelling unit approvals										
Original (no. per '000 population)	Mar 04	0.547	0.775	1.047	0.643	1.069	0.573	0.433	0.626	7
Trend (no. per '000 population)	Mar 04	0.544	0.744	0.919	0.568	1.037	0.500	0.443	0.533	7
Secured housing finance (d) (\$)	Mar 04	640.8	469.6	575.6	466.2	579.6	326.9	453.1	475.8	22

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS PERIOD

State final demand										
Chain volume measures trend (c)										
(\$'000)	Dec qtr	1.2	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.8	2.1	2.0	0.5	1
Retail turnover										
Current prices original	Mar 04	7.5	8.2	6.0	9.9	7.1	7.5	6.7	6.6	3
Current prices trend	Mar 04	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	3
New motor vehicle sales trend	Apr 04	0.4	0.4	1.3	-0.3	0.2	-2.3	3.5	-0.2	4
Private new capital expenditure										
Current prices trend (e)	Dec qtr	-0.9	-1.8	1.6	-5.1	7.2	-7.1	3.2	-6.4	5
Dwelling unit approvals										
Original (%)	Mar 04	-5.5	13.1	27.0	19.0	4.4	37.0	4.9	-6.5	7
Trend (%)	Mar 04	-0.6	-3.1	-1.4	-2.9	0.2	1.7	-5.7	4.1	7
CPI- All groups (%)	Mar qtr	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.7	13
Participation rate trend (e)	Apr 04	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	17
Unemployment rate trend (e)	Apr 04	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	17
Average weekly earnings (full-time adults; ordinary time) trend	Feb qtr	1.0	1.0	1.3	-0.1	0.9	0.1	1.2	0.4	20
Secured housing finance (d)	Mar 04	26.6	20.4	20.4	21.9	15.8	33.6	18.4	20.2	22

(a) Base year of index 1989-90=100.

(b) The latest quarterly estimate of Australian resident population has been used to calculate ratios for subsequent periods.

(c) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2001-02.

(d) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(e) Change is shown in terms of percentage points.

SOURCE INDEX FOR STATISTICAL & STATE SUMMARY TABLES

- 1 Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (Cat. no. 5206.0)—and ABS data available on request
- 2 International Trade in Goods and Services (Cat. no. 5368.0) and International Merchandise Imports (Cat. no. 5349.0). Further detail available on request and in the associated datacubes.
- 3 Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0) Monthly
- 4 Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (Cat. no. 9314.0.55.001) Monthly
- 5 Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (Cat. no. 5625.0) Quarterly - and Ausstats data.
- 6 Tourist Accommodation, Australia (Cat. no. 8635.0) Quarterly
- 7 Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0) Monthly
- 8 Building Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8752.0) Quarterly
- 9 Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8762.0) Quarterly
- 10 Manufacturing Production, Australia (Cat. no. 8301.0) Quarterly
- 11 Livestock Products, Australia (Cat. no. 7215.0) Quarterly—and ABS data available on request.
- 12 Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Australia (Cat. no. 8412.0) Quarterly
- 13 Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0) Quarterly
- 14 Producer Price Indexes, Australia (Cat. no. 6427.0) Quarterly
- 15 House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6416.0) Quarterly
- 16 Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0) Quarterly
- 17 Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6202.0) Monthly
- 18 Job Vacancies, Australia (Cat. no. 6354.0) Quarterly
- 19 Industrial Disputes, Australia (Cat. no. 6321.0) Monthly
- 20 Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (Cat. no. 6302.0) Quarterly
- 21 Wage Cost Index, Australia (Cat. no. 6345.0) Quarterly
- 22 Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0) Monthly

- 23 Lending Finance, Australia (Cat. no. 5671.0) Monthly—and ABS data available on request.
- 24 Reserve Bank of Australia Bulletin

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Provides an up-to-date overview of what has been happening in the South Australian economy and contrasts the state's performance with that of the Australian economy. Provides details of movements in a range of economic indicators and also contains time series information.

Changing to electronic format, from the Feb 2004 release.

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